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VOL. IX. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1872. NO. 148.

FIRST EDITION.

HARRISBURG.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

Anonymous Charges Against State Officers.

The Matter Referred to the Evans Committee.

The Whole Matter Gotten Up by G. O. Evans as a "Pincher."

The Local Option Bill Passed.

Bill to Regulate Election of Auditor and Surveyor General Passed.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 29, 1872.

SENATE.

Mr. White offered the following

WHEREAS, In the New York *Tribune* of February 28th the following appears:

On the 9th of January, Mr. Cooper came into the House of Representatives, toward the close of the morning hour, and endeavored to bring before that body a resolution of inquiry, but before the purport of his resolution appeared, a well known leader of the "Third House" hurriedly went upon the floor, and immediately, by a movement known to the initiated as the "Harrisburg flurry," the session was broken together than adjourned. The resolution never was offered again, the matter, probably, having been "fixed;" but, as the movement above described is only resorted to in case of emergency, a considerable inquiry was excited as to the objects aimed at. Events subsequently placed a copy of the resolution in your correspondent's hands; but though the allegations were important and specific, no authority was cited, and your correspondent awaited further developments. During the last ten days the two State officers mentioned in the resolution have been interesting themselves to procure the pardon of a certain young broker of Philadelphia, lately condemned for being connected with frauds on the Treasury of that city. Attention being attracted to the case, an investigation ensued, which seems to establish the propriety of making public the suppressed resolution. The portion relevant reads as follows:

WHEREAS, John F. Hartranft, Auditor General, and Robert W. Mackey, State Treasurer, have been accused of illegality in setting moneys of the Commonwealth, in applying the same in carrying on various operations in stocks, to the extent of several millions of dollars, and to the payment of their private debts; and

WHEREAS, The said State officers are further accused of having used the moneys of the Commonwealth for their own benefit, particularly to the purchase of the loans of the Commonwealth for their own benefit, particularly to the purchase of $99,500 of the five per cent. loan of the Commonwealth, and $31,050 of the six per cent. loan of the Commonwealth; and of having sold the said loans to the Sinking Fund of the Commonwealth at an advantage or profit to the said Mackey of $2,-750 42, and of an advantage to the said Hartranft of $2,760; and

WHEREAS, The said Mackey is further accused of having received, among other sums, the following payments as interest on the moneys of the Commonwealth loaned (or deposited by him for or on account of such consideration, viz: On August 25, 1869, $671 50; on February 9, 1870, $3,329 20; on May 16, 1870, $3,000; and October 5, 1871, $8,000. Therefore, be it

Resolved, (the Senate concurring) That a Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives be appointed to inquire into the accusations aforesaid, and report with authority to send for persons and papers.

Mr. R. W. Mackey has just been re-elected State Treasurer, and Mr. J. F. Hartranft is the expectant candidate for the Governor's chair. The Legislature reconvenes to-morrow, 30th, but owing to the sitting in Philadelphia of three committees, and also to the prevailing sickness, it is hardly probable that much will assemble on the first day. Governor Geary, who has been quite ill for several weeks, is recovering, and expected to be in Philadelphia to-day, but his physicians decided against his going.

ANDY WHARTON, Jr., is alleged by officers of the Commonwealth named therein that said resolution was devised with the intent to compel said officers to compromise the claim of the Commonwealth against George O. Evans; and whereas, said officers request an investigation thereof,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate to investigate said charges against said officers, and that the power of inducing the attempted introduction of said resolution, and the publication thereof, with power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. White stated that this preamble and resolution were prepared and handed to him by request of one of the parties alluded to in the publication.

Mr. Buckalew said it seemed to him this was a matter for the House of Representatives. The publication professes to give a resolution that was never offered. How the Senate had anything to do with this he did not understand. We have nothing to do with what happens out of the Senate, and nothing to do in the House. Merely upon information of a correspondent of a New York paper that the resolution was to have been offered, and not set forth with order a committee to send for persons and papers? At this stage of the session he believed members were sufficiently occupied, and he thought the Senator from Indiana [Mr. White] had enough committees to occupy his attention. He was very much in favor of opening an investigation where there was apparent cause, but here there was merely hearsay on the part of a correspondent of a foreign newspaper. It would be a piece of apparent impertinence here in the Senate to attempt to investigate matters that occurred in the House. Until something appeared requiring an investigation of the affairs of the State Treasurer and Auditor General, he was opposed to this investigation. There was no ground upon which to appear. If either of these officers came before the Senate and asked for an investigation against false charges, he would vote for a committee.

Mr. Billingfelt claimed to be one who never voted against investigation, but at the same time he had come to have very little faith in investigations since his sad experience here in 1870, when the atmosphere was full of foul charges against the officers of the government. The case in that case was, that he was satisfied with the distinct duty of thoroughly examining every person that was brought before them, at least so far as they were willing to answer. Some had declined to appear or testify, when a resolution was passed at his instance compelling parties to testify, but strange to say this resolution was subsequently reconsidered and postponed, this merely leaving the question open whether the Senate had power to compel unwilling witnesses to appear and testify. He was afraid he was getting a little tired of the way of this investigation if there was any foundation for it. If we take cognizance of all the rumors spread over the Commonwealth, we could not find a sufficient number of members in this branch of the Legislature to fill the committees to be raised. About half a dozen investigations are now going on. It might be well, however, to give these parties an opportunity of proving their innocence, and if guilty they should be so pronounced self or the people. The charges were serious, and justice should be done to all parties.

Mr. Strang said his proposition was that when the real author of the resolution spoken of recovered sufficiently to testify before the committee, of which Mr. Graham was chairman, he should be prepared to vote for this resolution.

Mr. White desired to understand to whom Mr. Strang was referring.

Mr. Strang explained that he referred to the author of the resolution proposed to be offered some time ago in the House, meaning George O. Evans.

Mr. White said the resolution was handed him by State Treasurer Mackey.

Mr. Strang said if any respectable citizen or newspaper in the Commonwealth, or any member of this or the other body had any charges to make against either of the gentlemen named in this resolution, he would be willing to vote for this proposed investigation; but in the absence of any well defined suspicion, to talk of an investigating committee was merely frittering away time.

Mr. Billingfelt said it looked pretty much to him as though there was a feeling of anxiety to get up special committees, so as to provide a place for every member of this branch. He moved that this whole matter be referred to the George O. Evans investigating committee, where it would seem to rightfully belong. He regretted that that committee permitted the bird [Evans] to flee for a time out of the State when he had been here a week, and should have been examined at once, as he tendered his services when the committee was appointed.

Some disputation arose here between Messrs. Graham and Billingfelt as to the time Evans was in town at the organization of the committee, the former claiming that it was only a few days at least, and the former that Evans was in town only a day and a-half, before the committee was organized or could have a consultation. So then they [the committee] proposed Evans among the first, with the result now known to the whole Commonwealth. Mr. Graham insisted that the committee had done everything in their power to secure Evans.

Mr. Billingfelt said he was not blaming the committee or its chairman, but regretted they would now be under the necessity of sending a requisition to another State. If Evans was really guilty, it was not to be wondered at that he should attempt to elude examination. He hoped however no stone would be left unturned to bring this witness before the committee. Serious charges like these hanging over the heads of officials ought to be probed to the bottom. It was due to our worthy Governor that these investigations should go through.

Mr. Brooke corroborated Mr. Graham. He was certain Evans had not been in Harrisburg more than two days this winter.

Mr. Graham opposed the motion to refer this matter to the Evans Committee. Mr. Billingfelt having said there were parties here ready to testify before that Committee who had not yet been subpœnaed, Mr. Graham explained that one party [meaning J. McClure], had been ready for trial alone, but preferred to come after Evans, and the Committee indorsed the suggestion as likely to produce good results.

Mr. Wallace indorsed what Mr. Graham had said, but animadverted upon the State officials, who should have afforded the Committee more facilities for ascertaining who got all this money.

Mr. Billingfelt's amendment referring this matter to the Evans committee was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Albright, Allen, Billingfelt, Brodhead, Buckalew, Collins, Crawford, Davis, Berks; Dunkel, Ely, Findley, Fitch, McSherry, Petrikin, Strang, Wallace, Warfel and Wolfe—19.

NAYS—Messrs. Anderson, Brooke, Davis, Philadelphia; Delamater, Graham, Hendrickson, Mumma, Sagle, White and Ritan—10.

The resolution as amended was passed.

Bills Introduced.

By Mr. Brooke, authorizing married women to purchase and sell registered bonds.

By Mr. Mumma, supplement relative to railroads, authorizing roads not contiguous to consolidate.

By Mr. Davis, of Berks, by request, forming a new Judiciary district out of Armstrong county.

By Mr. Graham, refunding to Gotleib Faas a recognizance of $4,000, by the Treasurer of Allegheny county. This bill was passed.

By Mr. Anderson, authorizing the Allegheny Valley Railway Company to change the time of annual meeting of stockholders. Passed.

By Mr. White, incorporating the New Florence and Ligonier Railroad.

The McClure-Gray Case.

Mr. Buckalew introduced a joint resolution appropriating $7,000 to pay the expenses of the McClure-Gray contested election committee.

Mr. Davis, of Berks, offered a resolution that the Committee in the McClure-Gray case have leave to sit during the sessions of the Senate during this and next week, and to employ the necessary clerical force in reporting of the proceedings, and to facilitate the work of the Committee.

Mr. Graham urged that the law of 1839 required that investigations shall not take members away during the sessions of the Senate, mere resolution could not repeal the law in this case.

The discussion became general, assuming somewhat of a political aspect. Mr. Mumma opposed the resolution, contending that the committee would be likely to occupy not less than three weeks in this case and if this resolution passed, how was the Legislature to adjourn on the 28th of March.

The Democrats all sustained the resolution. Mr. Davis, of Philadelphia, said he should not vote for any resolution bringing a committee and witnesses to Harrisburg at an extra expense of $10,000 or $15,000. Let the meetings be held in Philadelphia.

The whole matter was settled by adopting the amendment of Mr. Buckalew to amendment of Mr. Brooke, by which the Committee is allowed Friday, Saturday and Tuesday in Philadelphia.

The resolutions giving $1,000 to the Evans Committee and $7,000 to the McClure-Gray Committee to pay expenses were adopted.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Cooper Tells About Those Resolutions.

Mr. Cooper, Republican, made a personal explanation. A dispatch had appeared in the New York *Tribune*, of the 28th, saying that he had endeavored to introduce resolutions into the Legislature charging Auditor General Hartranft and State Treasurer Mackey with having unlawfully speculated with the funds of the State. On the 19th of February he had been sent for at the Lochiel Hotel, and introduced by one of his constituents to George O. Evans, to his attorney and to Dr. Payne. These parties had asked him to prepare certain resolutions and he declined to do so. He had examined their papers, and at once made up his mind that they objected to do so to obtain an offset to the investigation now pending against Evans or else to compel the State Treasurer and Auditor General to settle the State claims against Evans. He refused to present the resolutions, and communicated the facts to Auditor General Hartranft, who declared that the whole thing was, in his opinion, an effort to "pinch" the Commonwealth; that the State had offered to settle on the basis of the Dauphin county court's decision, viz: for $50,000 that over $80,000 had been offered by the Evans party, but that the State Treasurer and himself could not see their way clear to accept less than the amount they thought was designated by the Court.

Mr. McConnell, Democrat, said Payne had come to him and asked him to present the resolutions on Hartranft and Mackey, which he had refused to do so, because he was a member of the Committee to investigate the alleged Evans defalcation.

The special order was the bill to provide against the evils resulting from the sale of intoxicating liquors, being the Illinois law. Mr. McJunkin moved an amendment to submit local option to a vote every three years. Agreed to, 55 ayes to 27 noes. Adjourned till one o'clock.

Election and Surveyor Generals.

In the afternoon the special order was the House bill relative to the election of Auditor and Surveyor Generals. The first section provides that in the case of the death of any person elected Auditor or Surveyor General between the day of election and the first Tuesday of May, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Governor until the first Monday of December.

Mr. Sanner moved to amend by providing that the vacancy shall be filled by the incumbent at the time being, until his successor shall be elected and qualified, instead of allowing the Governor to appoint. Agreed to.

The second section provides that the Auditor General or Surveyor General for the term shall be chosen at the next annual election after the death of the person whose place has been temporarily filled.

The third section authorizes returns of elections to be opened on the first Tuesday after such election. This bill was passed as amended.

Local Option.

The general Local Option bill was again taken up. Mr. McJunkin moved to amend by requiring a triennial vote to be taken by the cities, townships and boroughs.

One of the sections of the bill provided that it should not interfere with any existing local prohibitory laws on the liquor question. Mr. Latta moved to strike out the provision. Lost after debate. The bill then passed finally by ayes to thirty-four noes. The Allegheny members voted as follows: Ayes—White, Miller, Semple, Ballentine and Kirkpatrick. Noes—Taylor and Edwards.

Bills Passed

The following House bills were passed: Authorizing Bishop Domenec to sell certain real estate; incorporating the South Side Savings Bank of Allegheny county; supplement concerning streets and alleys in Pittsburgh; prescribing the mode of adopting and recording ordinances and resolutions of Pittsburgh Councils; providing for the improvement of Pennsylvania avenue and other avenues and streets in Pittsburgh, authorizing change of location of the Western House of Refuge; supplement relative to building bridges over the Monongahela river; relating to boarding house keepers in Allegheny county; authorizing the Pittsburgh and Birmingham Passenger Railway Company to issue general mortgage bonds to raise money to pay the indebtedness of said road, to extend their track, to build car houses, stables and other necessary improvements.

The following Senate bills passed: Incorporating the United Savings Bank of Pittsburgh; incorporating the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Birmingham; incorporating the Kings Bank of East Birmingham; incorporating the Shoe and Leather Savings Bank of Pittsburgh; incorporating the Allegheny Salt Company; supplement for the Monongahela Valley Telegraph Company.

Mr. McGowan objected off the House supplement for the Armenia Insurance Company of Pittsburgh.

The bill incorporating the Real Estate Deposit Bank of Pittsburgh was negatived.

Mr. Latta objected off the House bill incorporating the Youghiogheny Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

Ohio.

COLUMBUS, February 29.—In the Senate, Senate bill to establish a State insurance department, with a salary of $3,000 per annum, was passed, and in the House, House bill to authorize the stockholders of joint stock companies to fix the number of their boards of directors was passed. Bills were introduced to increase the fees of members of struck juries to $1 50 per day; to make land owners responsible for damages done by tenants' dogs; providing that when one railroad train is switched on a side track for the passage of another the approaching train shall come to a full stop and be signaled that the switch is all right; also bill to require coroners to keep a full record of inquests held by them and file the same with the Court of Common Pleas for reference.

Kansas.

TOPEKA, February 29.—The bill providing for the registration of bonds passed the Senate. The Senate amended the House resolution directing a copy of the testimony taken by the Bribery Investigating Committee to be sent to Senators and the Vice President to be laid without the sending to the Vice President. The House refused to concur, and passed a resolution directing the Speaker to send such copy to the Vice President, to be laid before the Senators of the United States. Both houses agreed to adjourn sine die after twelve o'clock to-morrow, and the Legislature will probably adjourn on Saturday.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, February 29, 1872, 7 P. M.

PROBABILITIES.

The low barometer over West Virginia will probably move northeast wardly over the Middle, Atlantic and Southern New England States; the area of snow extending, during the night, over the latter, where the winds will veer to northerly and westerly winds by the rising barometer, falling temperature and clearing, but partially cloudy weather extend northeast ward over the Middle States by and during Friday morning. In the New England States by Friday evening pleasant weather with northeasterly winds prevail from the Ohio Valley to the South Atlantic coast; northerly winds veering to westerly are probable for the Western Gulf States. Dangerous winds are not anticipated for the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

BIBLE CLASS.—The Bible class and teachers meeting at the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. this (Friday) evening will be conducted by N. J. Jackson, Esq., Superintendent of the Liberty street M. E. Church Sunday School. As the lesson for this series is the one used in these meetings, all who use these lessons in their schools will find this an excellent opportunity for preparing their lessons for the succeeding Sabbath, and of comparing their method of teaching with teachers in other schools.

T. C. JENKINS is now running the Checkered Front. Dealers wanting flour or groceries of any kind will do well to call and see him. tf

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

A Land Grant Scheme Checked.

Pittsburgh Delegation Have a Hearing.

The Committee Favorably Disposed Toward the Project for New Buildings.

Mr. Sumner's Investigating Committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 29, 1872.

Land Grant Defeated.

The St. Croix and Bayfield land grant, after a fierce contest in the House to-day, was finally referred back to the Committee, with instructions to report an amendment thereto to the effect that said grant shall only consist of those lands which would otherwise revert to the North Pacific Railroad if the bill were to be defeated in its present shape. The principal argument which has been used in favor of the revival of the grant has been that were it to lose the land, it would not revert to the Government, but would become the property of the North Pacific Railroad by virtue of the existing law. Mr. Stevenson, of Ohio, made one of the strongest speeches of his congressional career, in opposition to the whole system of granting away public lands to corporations. His speech had a marked effect upon the House, and was one of the chief influences which defeated the passage of the bill to-day.

The Arms Investigation.

The House French arms investigating committee had a session to-day, and Secretary Belknap appeared before it. The Secretary's testimony was to the effect that no arms had been knowingly sold to any French agent by the War Department, and that the proceeds of all arms sold by the ordnance department could be accounted for. The committee have concluded not to hold another session until the Senate reaches some conclusion as to the line of investigation it is expected to pursue.

The Chicago Bill.

The Senate Finance Committee is still uncertain as to the time when the Chicago relief bill will be reported. Some members think it may be to-morrow, and others not until Monday. Senator Scott stated to-day that in his opinion an itemized bill would be reported. This impression seems to be growing stronger among the friends of the bill. In connection with this matter, Governor Cook has filed complaint of certain misstatements in these dispatches. He says that in reference to future prices of lumber he merely stated to the Committee that in his judgment lumber would rule lower in price in the Chicago market this year than the average last year; that he would sell his stock for this year, mill run, at one dollar per thousand less than the average of last year, and would give any present ten days to accept his proposition. He says that the statement heretofore made that several members of the Chicago delegation dared Ferry to put that promise in writing is incorrect, and reflects unjustly upon his open proposition. He also further says that the statement that Senator Chandler acknowledged that Mr. Ogden's speech during the last September interviews was the hardest blow the enemies of the bill had yet received, was also incorrect. On this point he says Chandler's acknowledgment was the reverse—a statement that there would be 1,150,000,000 feet of lumber go into the Chicago market this year than last, in consequence of the burnt timber being gotten out to save it, and that he based his judgment a correct one. These corrections are made at Ferry's express request. The authority for the statement in the first instance were representations made by Mr. Ogden and other Committee sessions were secret reliance was placed thereon. There is some talk among members friendly to the Chicago bill that if it fails, to make an attempt to put lumber on the free list.

A Pittsburgh Delegation,

Headed by Hon. J. K. Moorhead, were before the House Committee on Public Buildings to-day, relative to an appropriation for a site for a Custom House and Court House in that city. Six hundred thousand dollars was the sum asked for. The majority of the members of the Committee seem to be favorably disposed towards this project.

Sumner's Investigation Committee.

The Committee under Mr. Sumner's resolution, passed to-day, will be chosen by the Senate, as under the rules all committees are elected unless the resolution provides for the appointment by the selection. There will probably a caucus concerning the matter to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 29, 1872.

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY

Reached Washington this afternoon. They were met at the depot by M. Mori, Japanese Charge D'Affairs in this city, accompanied by Governor Cook, General Chipman and General Myers, U. S. A., who had been detailed by the Department to take charge of the Embassy during the time they remain here. After brief salutations, Governor Cook was introduced, and in a short speech welcomed the distinguished gentlemen to the Capital of the United States. Prince Iwakura responded, briefly returning thanks for the cordial welcome, and without further ceremony the entire party entered carriages in waiting and were driven to their hotel. There was no public or official reception or ceremonies of any kind excepting the brief ones above mentioned. The Embassy will occupy about fifty rooms of the Arlington Hotel, and will have buildings on the opposite side of Vermont avenue.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE INVESTIGATION.

The Senate New York Custom House Committee will recommence its sittings next Monday in this city. Gen. Horace Porter will be the first witness examined.

THE PITTSBURGH DELEGATION HAVE A HEARING.

A delegation from Pittsburgh appeared before the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds this morning, to urge the erection of a new building for a postoffice, &c., in that city.

THE TEXAS PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads to-day agreed to report favorably on the bill introduced by Senator Scott yesterday, relating to the Texas Pacific Railroad, but the amendment not merely verbal is one chartering a branch road from Fulton, Arkansas, to intersect the main line between Marshall and Dallas, Texas. This branch is given the right of way but no subsidy.

SALES OF ARMS.

The Investigation Commenced.

Testimony of Secretary of War Belknap.

WASHINGTON, February 29, 1872.

The House Committee on Expenditures of the War Department to-day received the testimony of Secretary Belknap, showing that sales of arms to the French were stopped by his orders in October, 1870, at which time he first discovered that Remington was agent for the French government. Gen. Belknap repeated over and over again to Gen. Dyer that no sales should be made to any agent of the French or Prussian Governments. No arms were sold to any agent of the French Government to his knowledge. He had already stated the amount realized from the sale of arms, &c. It was $9,784,942. Of this sum $9,409,276 50 had been deposited in Treasury, with a few certificates on file; $120,000 was reported in the hands of depositors on the 20th of June, 1871; the balance was expended by contract stores for packing, lifting them up, &c. In reply to a question by the Chairman as to the discrepancies between the accounts of the War and Treasury Departments, Belknap said he was not aware of none. The close of the fiscal year of the War Department was the same as that of the Treasury Department, namely, the 30th of June. As to the Treasury books showing the amounts received for arms, Mr. Belknap explained that in almost every case payment was made by cash checks. Margins varying from five to twenty per cent. are added to cover transactions to secure the United States, and checks are cashed as quickly as possible and paid into the hands of the Government agents. The interrogatory was put, Do you know of fraud of your own knowledge that any Government officers are interested in the sale of arms directly or otherwise? Answer—I do not. Any very strong statement or intimation in connection with this matter was made to me by Marquis De Chambrun, January 20th, last. I asked him to name the persons, and then we went together into a private room, when I again asked him to name such persons or make a statement over his signature, or any statement by which I could convict, or fraud on any one of those officers or other persons connected with the Government. He did not do so. I kept a memorandum of the statement that he did make to me, but it contained nothing from which I can obtain information relative to any officers of the Government. I begged him to give me specific information, but he had none. Our conversation went further, but I got nothing bearing on the point.

The Chairman said he had invited Senator Sumner to appear and to give any facts he might have to offer, but he had not come forward. In order further to arrange for the examination, and to obtain official statements which the Secretary indicated his readiness to furnish, being desirous that the investigation should be thorough, the Committee adjourned until next Tuesday week.

SOUTH IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

Its Organization and Objects.

Statements by Friends and Opponents.

The South Improvement Company.

There has been great excitement in the oil regions of Pennsylvania for two weeks past, over the completion of an organization said to embrace the leading refiners of the country, and the railroads engaged in the transportation of oil, known by the corporate title of "The South Improvement Company." We have withheld all remarks on the subject until we could get at the facts on both sides of the case.

The Charter.

On the 16th of April, 1870, an act was passed incorporating "The Southern Improvement Company," vesting in the corporators thereof all the powers, privileges, duties and obligations of the "Continental Improvement Company," chartered by act of the Legislature, approved April 13th, 1868, section 2 of which specifies that they shall have perpetual succession, with powers and privileges as follows:

"To contract with any person, persons, firm, corporation or any other party, howsoever formed, existing, or that may hereafter exist, to build, construct, maintain or manage any work, public or private, and supply or furnish all needful material, labor, implements, instruments and fixtures of any and every kind whatsoever, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the parties respectively; and shall have full power and authority to hold and own securities of any form, either as collateral or otherwise, and dispose of the same at pleasure, and shall have power to hold, own and dispose of such other personal or real estate as a majority of the stockholders of said corporation may at any time approve, in writing or by resolution, at any meeting of the stockholders."

Objects and Manner of Operating.

The South Improvement Company is an organization chartered by the laws of Pennsylvania, and which, it is claimed, has been established for the purpose of protecting the refining interests of the United States, and the railroad interests immediately affected by the petroleum business. Within the last year a very large amount of crude oil has been shipped by the exporters, the result of which has been the building up of the refining interest abroad, thereby adding to the already large facilities for refining in excess of the amount produced, the refining capacity in this country being already equal to three times the average production. As a consequence there has heretofore existed a ruinous competition between the refineries, by which all profits have been swept away, and the petroleum business has been a losing one the past year, not only for refiners and purchasers, but to the railroad companies who have transported the oil. The South Improvement Company is formed by the situation being the foreign consumers. To obviate these difficulties in future, and to protect all interests, a unity of action has been effected in the organization of the 'South Improvement Company,' who propose to handle all the crude and refined oil in the United States, by which they propose to pay the railroad companies fixed and reasonable rates of transportation, and secure to both producer and refiner uniformly remunerative prices throughout. The leading plan of the association is that all the refineries take stock in the amount of their several refineries, and share proportionately in the profits of the company. The capital of the company is stated at $10,000,000, and claims to be backed by $250,000,000. The railroad combination includes the New York Central, Erie, Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio, and Pennsylvania Railroad interests. The freights to New York will range from $2 55 per 42 gallons, highest on refined oil; 15 cents less to Philadelphia, and 1 70 cents less to Baltimore. The percentage is to be divided as follows: New York, Lovell, Pennsylvania Railroad interests, including Baltimore and Ohio, 25 each. The Refiners' Association will have a drawback of from 75 cents to $1 this, assuming being gotten out to save 1,500,000 barrels, affording the South Improvement Company a revenue of $5,000,000, independently of the legitimate profits on refining. It is stated that the Chicago refiners, with a few exceptions, in committee sessions were secret reliance was placed thereon. There is some talk among members friendly to the Chicago bill that if it fails, to make an attempt to put lumber on the free list.

A Pittsburgh Delegation,

The producers of oil are of opinion that this is one of the most gigantic monopolies ever conceived, and that if successful it will result in destroying all competition, and finally in the bankruptcy of owners of wells. A writer in the Oil City *Derrick* gives an apparently fair statement of the average views entertained by those who denounce the new movement. He says:

"The ring pretends that they will make their margin out of the consumers. That is, they will put refined up to a figure that will enable them to pay well for crude. In the old world they are the largest market for refined; the price of which, of late years, has been a high priced commodity. Our refined took the place of their shale oil simply because it was put in the market at lower rates. Raise these and all the old refineries will start into life, and their product will supercede ours. Nor is it a matter of impossibility that if the mind of man by science turned to the discovery of a new and cheap illuminant, it may be found and the death blow be struck at our trade and it lost forever. This is no more improbable now than it was before the discovery of crude, and our interest demands that we cultivate the trade of oil to the consumers at as low a rate as we can afford, in order to retain the trade which we have already.

"Producers, consumers and dealers are thus at the mercy of this ring. The dealers have their business taken away. The consumers are thus compelled to pay more and pay a price which will warrant the ring in going on with their operations. And the producer's security for the price he is to receive is a mere matter of good discretion. The ring attack and fired its first gun yesterday. An advance of freight of over one dollar a barrel, upon both crude and refined oil between Titusville and the seaboard, went into effect yesterday. No notice that this advance was to begin so soon had been given to the shippers. In fact, on Saturday it seems that railroad officials at Corry were still ignorant of the time when the increase in freights should begin. But yesterday about noon Mr. Potter, of the Crescent road, telegraphed different parties upon the creek that the advance had already commenced, giving the charges for oil shipped either to New York or Boston. The news of the attack upon Sumter, at the opening of the rebellion, produced scarcely less excitement throughout the country than was experienced yesterday in the oil region, on receiving news of this advance of freight upon oil."

Mass Meetings Held.

On Monday last large meetings of producers and dealers were held at Tidioute, Shamburg and other points, at which resolutions denouncing the Improvement Company were adopted, and the intention declared to leave no stone unturned to defeat it.

On Tuesday a very large meeting was held in Titusville, delegates being present from all points in the oil regions and from Erie and Jamestown, N. Y. The following telegrams among others were read:

NEW YORK, February 27, 1872.—*To A. H. Scott:* Neither the Atlantic and Great Western or any of its officers are interested in the South Improvement Company. Of course, the policy of the road is to accommodate the petroleum interest. G. B. McClellan.

NEW YORK, February 27.—Contract with South Improvement Company signed by Geo. B. McClellan, President for the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad. I only signed it after it was signed by all the other parties. Jay Gould.

The reading of Gould's telegram acted as a wet blanket on the applause which greeted the reading of McClellan's. Then followed this:

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G. R. BLANCHARD, G. F. A.

New Railroads Proposed.

A general discussion on the subject of freights on oil and the necessity for new outlets followed. Hon. W. A. Galbraith, of Erie, stated that the tariff on oil to that city was fifty cents per barrel higher than was charged to Cleveland. He advocated the immediate construction of a railroad from Titusville to Erie, the latter city having a fine harbor, which could never be controlled by a ring or monopoly. Freights by water from Erie to the seaboard would be ever more reasonable than they could expect from the railroads, even if not controlled by this new combination. Hon. Morrow B. Lowry followed in a speech of similar tone.

Mr. White, of Jamestown, favored the building of a railroad from Titusville to Buffalo by way of Jamestown, 106 miles, a saving of fifteen miles over the present route. Ample aid would be given by the people along the route, who were anxious that it should be built. It would, if built, give direct communication with one of the largest agricultural regions in the country, affording cheaper food to the people of the oil regions. Oil could be laid down at Buffalo for twenty-five cents per barrel. In the success of the enterprise the entire country and all Our Oil Creek refiners had the same transportation facilities afforded them as those these now possessed by Cleveland and Pittsburgh refiners, they could afford to pay the producers more for their oil than they now do. But the legislature, under the influence of this combination, had given away valuable rights, bought up all the railroads, and defies the producers and refiners in the creek to provide another outlet. It is even hinted that it is through this instrumentality that the Warren and Venango Road has been sold out and the people of Titusville and the creek along with it. While we have no objection to refiners in other sections refining just as cheaply, competitive, and legitimate manner, when a combination of capital backed, as it purports to be, by all the railroads in New York and Pennsylvania stands, with a power behind it such as they have already given to the world, to crush this region and its prosperous inhabitants, and to build up a few favored, and by illegitimate earnings of their labor, skill and enterprise, we, the citizens of Titusville, say that we will resist; and, if we know the people of the region, will resist to the last dollar."

The Remedies Proposed by Them.

Various remedies are proposed for the supposed threatened evils, among which are the building of new railroads, and a combination of producers and dealers with such of the refiners as have not been swallowed by the South Improvement Company. The courts are to be appealed to to define the rights of railroad companies, opponents of the new way of doing business claiming that charters can be forfeited if they go into any combination showing favoritism, directly in the rates of freight. Still another suggestion is that a compact, systematic organization of producers be formed, in the nature of a vigilance committee, to look after their interests.

The War Commenced.

The *Courier* of the 27th contained the following: The war has commenced. The gigantic railway monopoly made its first attack and fired its first gun yesterday. An advance of freight of over one dollar a barrel, upon both crude and refined oil between Titusville and the seaboard, went into effect yesterday. No notice that this advance was to begin so soon had been given to the shippers. In fact, on Saturday it seems that railroad officials at Corry were still ignorant of the time when the increase in freights should begin. But yesterday about noon Mr. Potter, of the Crescent road, telegraphed different parties upon the creek that the advance had already commenced, giving the charges for oil shipped either to New York or Boston. The news of the attack upon Sumter, at the opening of the rebellion, produced scarcely less excitement throughout the country than was experienced yesterday in the oil region, on receiving news of this advance of freight upon oil."

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The Daily Commercial.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1872.

At a meeting of the Iron Association, held yesterday, an advance of two-tenths was agreed upon, on all sizes of iron.

The report originally given to the public by the COMMERCIAL that Col. THOMAS A. SCOTT will soon retire from the Union Pacific Railroad Company is authentically confirmed. The VANDERBILT interest will succeed to the management, and Col. SCOTT will prosecute the Texas Pacific Railroad, an enterprise which commends itself to his better judgment, and will have the benefit of all his energies.

As YET there is no evidence that the key note sounded by the Labor Reform Convention at Columbus is going to swell into a song of victory. It may be too early to be positive, but it is pretty clear that the predictions by those who professed to believe that the nominations of DAVIS and PARKER would clear the Presidential sky and set the sign of victory for all the opponents of General GRANT, are not being realized. The conceded possibilities of the occasion are not likely to be worked out. The key note is not being caught up with anything like "significance." The affair has no perceptible body or breath; and then, there is an odor as of something dead and under a galvanizing process. The suspicion is strong that it is the Democratic caucus of "peace at any price" memory. It is apparent the signs relied on to animate expectant watchers are not brightening but waning. Doubtless further attempts will be made to "combine for victory," but certainly this first sally has not been productive of any degree of positive encouragement to those engaged in it.

We referred, the other day, to the competitive examination under the new Civil Service rules, ordered to be applied by the Collector of New Haven, Connecticut, in the filling of the office of Inspector, then vacant. Thirteen persons, one of whom was a negro, presented themselves to the Committee, to each of whom a paper was given, containing ten questions, seven of which referred to the duties of an Inspector, two to geography, and one to arithmetic, to be answered in writing. On the following day the several papers written by the candidates were read to the Committee, so that there was no possibility of recognizing or being influenced by the handwriting, and the person giving the most accurate answers received the appointment. He proved to be an old subordinate Custom House officer—a thoroughly worthy and competent man—who was removed from his position under personal pressure when the present Collector came into office. He has now, as it were, come to his own again; and it is gratifying to know that the first application of the new rules resulted in so plain a remedying of so palpable an injustice. It is a good sign.

The idea which Senator SPENCER, of Alabama, would seem to have of statesmanship, is that it is a sort of swapping of jack-knives on an extended scale. He has introduced a bill into the Senate providing for the removal of the political disabilities of rebels, on condition that they shall not prosecute any claims against the United States that accrued during the rebellion. It is to be hoped the Senate will promptly refuse to entertain any such cheap-John proposition. It is right and proper that the Treasury of the United States should be guarded with all honorable vigilance, but for a great people to enter into such a paltry dicker as that which the proposed measure of the Senator contemplates, in order to avoid the payment of a few valid claims against them, is too miserable a piece of business to think seriously of. If an amnesty measure is desirable—and it unquestionably is—let the Senate pass it promptly, freely, and with smooth brows. But don't ask the people of this country, with their grand memories of emancipation and enfranchisement, to turn liberty peddlers for a pecuniary consideration. They would never again be able to look the Fifteenth Amendment in the face.

The political campaign in New Hampshire is always one of importance and interest, partly because the election occurs at an earlier date than in any other State, and partly because the two great political parties have for several years been very nearly balanced. This year the contest is one of more than usual significance. With the exception of Connecticut, the forthcoming State election is the only one which occurs before August, and hence both parties are making strenuous exertions to carry it, that the example of victory may stimulate political enthusiasm in other parts of the country. The State was carried by the Democracy last year for the first time since 1854; and, on the eve of a Presidential election, they are trying to hold on to the importance of power with a grip more firm and tenacious than ever, while the Republicans are making corresponding efforts to dispossess them. Both parties profess to be equally confident of success; but what with the labor and temperance reformers, both of whom have tickets in the field, the result is very doubtful, and the battle will be very closely contested. Both the Republicans and Democrats are sending in their speakers from all parts of the country, and the contest waxes hotter and more interesting every day. The fact that the term of Senator PATTERSON expires with the present Congress, and that his seat will be filled for the six years ensuing by the Legislature about to be chosen, gives additional importance to the struggle. Our friends seem to have good grounds of hope for success, one point in their favor being that they began the campaign somewhat earlier than the Democrats. The chief doubt is said to be with reference to the House of Representatives, and this uncertainty is principally owing to the vigor with which United States Senatorial claims are being pushed by rival Republican candidates. The election takes place on the 12th instant, and the vote will doubtless be heavier than it has been for a number of years.

The editorial contributions of the New York *World* to the American interpretation of the Washington Treaty were distinguished by the earlier stages of the discussion, marked by uncommon philosophic impartiality, as well as by unusual historical research and critical acumen. In a series of elaborate articles upon the subject it showed from British documentary evidence that almost from the beginning of the correspondence between the two Governments respecting the Alabama question, down to the moment when the English Commissioners left our shores, after the formation of the treaty, the Government of that country knew it would be required to meet a claim from us of compensation for indirect losses and injuries. The *World* proved, by extracts from the speeches of various English statesmen, and from the correspondence between our Ministers to England and the British Foreign Office, that that country had repeatedly given this claim official recognition, and dealt with it in an official manner; as also, that during the whole progress of the Commission itself, the London Foreign Office directed the whole proceedings of the English representatives at Washington, who were required to forward daily information of the exact character of events. The *World*, indeed, went so far as to say that the British Commissioners were "mere attesting attorneys," that the English Ministry itself shaped the treaty, and that GLADSTONE's claim that it was ambiguous and susceptible of contradictory interpretations, was the veriest pleading of the "baby act" that had ever fallen under its observation. Yet now that a salutary change of British opinion has taken place, and it is becoming more and more probable that a pacific and satisfactory solution of the difficulty will be reached, that journal makes a complete somersault, and characterizes these very claims, which it had previously indorsed and upheld, as "absurd and monstrous in form and substance," says that "they are as out of harmony with the other parts of the case as General Grant would be if he attempted, sword in hand, to argue a cause before the Supreme Court," and charges the President with being culpably responsible for all the irritation and exasperation which their presentation has produced. Reinforced by a few grains of the commonest fairness, the ability of the *World* might perhaps be turned to good account.

OUR JUDGES.

The argument made by our correspondent "Madison" against the constitutionality of paying the judiciary of the State in part out of the county treasury, is not sustained by some leading members of the bar. The Legislature, several years ago, passed an act allowing the Judges of Philadelphia to be paid an additional two thousand dollars annually out of the city (or county) treasury, and the question of the constitutionality of that act has not been raised. On the question whether our Judges should not be paid the additional sum named in the bill now pending in the Senate, these arguments are pertinently advanced: The Courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Orphans' Court and Oyer and Terminer, four in number, are presided over by Judges STERRETT, SWOPE and COLLIER. They sit, with scarcely any intermission, from September until the middle of July—ten and a half months of constant, arduous and exacting labor, both mental and physical. The business of these four Courts has quadrupled within the last ten years, and the bar and the community have felt the necessity, not only for an increase of salary of the judges, but for an additional Judge on the Common Pleas bench at no distant day. In Philadelphia *five* judges—two more than we have—preside over similar courts, although, in proportion to the amount of litigation in the courts of this county, Philadelphia is not entitled to that number. Moreover, the Philadelphia judges are paid $7,000 a year—$5,000 by the State and $2,000 by the city, under the provisions of a law precisely similar to that now before the Legislature for this county. The Judges of the District Court, Messrs. HAMPTON and KIRKPATRICK, have great labors thrown upon them, and the business of that Court is growing important and pressing. In Philadelphia four Judges preside over a Court of like jurisdiction, two more than we have. If Philadelphia, it is argued, can have nine Judges at $7,000 each per annum, and the benefit of jury trials besides before a Supreme Court Judge at *Nisi Prius*—making really *ten* Judges in all—should not Allegheny county, with her great business interests and commercial standing, have her *five* Judges paid at least as much? Members of the bar can make money by investing capital in various ways, but Judges cannot be stockholders in corporations, nor speculators in real estate or mortgages, without being open to censure, and at times placed in a position to awaken suspicion. Cut off from all the ordinary channels of business, they must, as honorable men, abstain from money making, and rely upon the compensation paid for their services. Many lawyers at the bar make from ten to twenty thousand dollars a year, none of whom, diligent though they be, are more severely taxed than the judges. Men competent to sit in judgment upon questions involving the rights of property and person, should be paid a fair and just compensation—an amount equal to that which like fitness and responsibility command in other cities.

The arguments adduced are forcible, and will no doubt weigh with the Legislature in considering the bill. We have said that we do not believe our judges are paid sufficiently for the labor they perform, and we are therefore not opposed to the increase asked for. The legality of the proposed act is quite another question, and one which every citizen has a right to criticise, if he has the ability so to do. It is only by intelligent discussion that proper conclusions may be arrived at, and this was the purpose in admitting "Madison's" communication.

In regard to the pecuniary burden which the increase will impose upon the people, it is explained that not a penny will be raised by taxation, as the State, under this bill, remits the tax now paid into the State Treasury upon Judicial writs, and authorizes it to be paid into the County Treasury, thus securing an amount more than sufficient to meet the proposed increase of one thousand dollars to each of the Judges. Under the facts as stated, there is no reason why the bill should not pass.

When JEFF DAVIS, ten or eleven years ago, was elected President of the Southern Confederacy, "Hangman" FOOTE, of Tennessee, indorsed the movement to its fullest extent. He now indorses the nomination of Judge DAVIS as the Labor Reform candidate for President, and thinks he sees in it the same promise of victory which he fancied he discovered in the rebel cause, before the Union armies broke through the Tennessee cordon, and "Hangman" skedaddled from Nashville, frightened out of his wits. He is excellent as an "indorser," but for a prophet is made of very poor stuff.

Mr. A. WILDER, of this State, and an engineer of original views, proposes a "Narrow Gauge Combination Railroad System," and has secured for it the recognition of Congress in a bill. It contemplates the laying of two narrow-gauge tracks, side by side, with a space between the inner rails equal to the present common gauge (four feet, eight inches). Here there will be three possible gauges, the narrow, the common, and a broad one of more than two or twelve feet, all of which Mr. Wilder proposes to use. For small traffic and cheap work, the narrow-gauge will be, perhaps, most serviceable, while for high speed and bulky freight he advocates the broad cars. By mounting them upon four lines of wheels, one for each track, he contends that the cars will be found so free from oscillation that a high rate of speed can be maintained without danger, while passenger comfort will certainly be greatly enhanced by enlarging the car section to a width of seventeen feet. The increased size of the engines will render them capable of higher speed, and Mr. Wilder even talks of a hundred miles an hour. He also has extensive plans for transporting freight in bulk across the Isthmus of Panama in his big cars, and could easily ship vessels of 500 or 600 tons' burthen from one ocean to the other, all loaded.

Pending the discovery of Dr. Livingstone by its city editor, the New York *Herald*, which has always some praiseworthy enterprise on hand, has turned its attention to the Celtic Saint, St. Patrick. It says:

Out of respect to the numerous citizens of Celtic birth or descent members of the Board, or interested in its dealings from day to day, and as a testimonial of regard for the immense Celtic contributions to the railway wealth of the country, it has been decided to close the Stock Exchange on St. Patrick's Day, the 17th of March proximo. This determination was not arrived at by any special resolution or action of the Board, but was agreed upon informally among the members, and will be adhered to none the less strictly. It will be remembered that last year the legislature proposed making the 17th of March a holiday legally. This year the Stock Exchange will render it once practically. It is thought that the banks, the Custom House and public buildings generally with the Stock Exchange in the line, the decorous compliment to our Hibernian fellow-citizens.

This year St. Patrick's Day falls on Sunday, and there is not the slightest doubt that the banks, Custom House and Stock Exchange will be closed. The *Herald's* gift of prophecy is wonderful.

The owners of land around the shores of Beaver Lake, in Indiana, went to work, some time ago, and dug a ditch which drained all the water from the lake, and converted its former bed into excellent meadow land. A question as to the ownership of this land has now arisen. The State claims it on the ground that she formerly owned the land around the lake, under the grant from the United States of swamp lands for school purposes. The men who dug the ditch maintain that, under the riparian laws, they have the right to extend the boundaries of their lands to the middle of the bed of the lake. One of the claimants became a defaulter to the State, and, in settling his accounts, assigned to it his right to the recovered land. A third class of claims has arisen. Certain persons, maintaining that the disputed territory reclaimed from the lake is public land of the United States, have squatted upon it, under the preemption laws. After various conflicting decisions of the Indiana courts, those interested have come to Congress for legislation. The matter has been referred to the Public Lands Committee, before which ex-Senator Hendricks, Gen. Milroy and others, have made arguments.

The snow which blocked the Union Pacific Railroad is described as a peculiar kind of snow. It would pack and soon become as hard as ice. The snow plows, driven up against it with the united force of four locomotives, would hardly make an impression. The only way to get it out was to dig trenches every six feet down to the rails, and then use the snow plows. But that was not always successful. At one time three engines were thrown from the track and the snow plow smashed in trying to get through, when to the eye it would seem that one engine could go through without difficulty. At some points, says a letter writer, I have seen the snow so hard that the engines would leave the rails and run right up upon it, mounting it as though it was a flint rock. You would not believe that, unless you could see it, but it is true. I did not believe it till I saw it, for it seems incredible.

The Apaches on the three "Vincent Collyer reservations" are reported restive and hankering for the war path. On the other hand, it is said that if there is any trouble it will be mainly due to the Arizona people and the soldiers, who would rather have a war next spring than not. The interior department is satisfied that there will not be any, but the war department is taking time by the forelock and making its "preparations." There are about 5,000 of these Indians, all told. The other tribes, we are glad to hear, seem perfectly quiet and peaceable.

The Washington dispatch to the Boston *Post* asserts that, should General Porter attempt to invalidate the testimony given by Mr. Lindsey, the confidential clerk of Grinnell, to the Congressional Committee at the New York Custom House, before whom Porter is to appear shortly, it is said upon good authority that Mr. Lindsey will produce proofs in Porter's own handwriting which will, beyond peradventure, it is claimed, establish his complicity with the Lett and Stocking general order business.

The Japanese Ambassadors, after visiting Chicago, sent to Mayor Medill $5,000 for the benefit of the sufferers by the great fire. It was a purely voluntary gift; and most generous, too. Probably, the money value of all the Bibles and tracts the good people of Chicago have ever sent to benighted Japan, says the *Tribune*, returned at the hands of these heathen Princes, to purchase bread and fuel for their own poor.

Northern Kansas is rapidly settling up. Last year there were 6,200 homesteads taken and 4,000 filings entered at the land-office at Concordia—more than at any two land-offices elsewhere in the United States during the same time.

It is reported that the Washington *Chronicle* is about to be sold. The friends of Senator Fenton are said to be negotiating for its purchase.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The other day a Boston house holding six thousand dollars ante-war bonds of Columbus, Georgia, wrote to the authorities to know what could be done about the matter, and in reply were informed that arrangements for the issue of new bonds were made seven years ago. That firm must be either very rich or very foolish, not to have made inquiry sooner.

Wall street has in four years invested twenty-four million dollars in Colorado gold mines. Here is a specimen of the result: Consolidated Gregory, worth, in 1868, $60 a share, sells for 20 cents; Black Hawk, once worth $100, sells for 50 cents; Smith & Parmalee, once worth $25, sells for 15 cents.

Archæologists have known from time immemorial that a magnificent cathedral existed near the site of the ancient town of Parthenion, in the Crimea. The exact location was ascertained recently, when a party of workmen came upon a wall which proved to belong to the cathedral. Further excavations have uncovered the high altar, which bears an inscription to the effect that the cathedral was built during the fifteenth century.

Statistics show that the Swiss go ahead of Americans in letter writing, as in one year her mails carried forty-five million letters, an average of eighteen to each individual, while in this country the number was five hundred and thirty-one millions, an average of only fifteen to each person.

Antwerp, the present headquarters of the legitimists and monarchs out of employ, is a maritime city in the North of Belgium, which has been the scene of battles and sieges, and other famous events. Two or three centuries ago it had a population of two hundred thousand, but the number is now reduced more than one-half.

A single company on the famous Comstock lode, in Nevada, will make an effort during the month of April to raise $1,000,000 in bullion. It will only be necessary to take out and work about 14,000 tons of ore worth $80 per ton. The average of the ore now in sight in the mine is about $100 per ton. The largest run of one month, which has ever heretofore been made by any company on the lode, was one of $500,000.

Cattle are starving on the Nueces, Texas, owing to the long continued drought. Within a circuit of five miles the Corpus Christi *Nueces Valley* reports about five thousand head dead.

Vernon Harcourt, "Historicus," of the London *Times*, claims that England could at any time send to sea two fleets, each of which would be superior to the united navies of Germany, Russia and the United States.

It is said that the coming season promises to be one of the most active and prosperous ever known in New Mexico. A large amount of foreign capital has become interested, new and improved machinery will be brought into use, and a fairer test than any yet applied will soon be witnessed in the mining regions of that territory.

As in England, so throughout British India, thanksgiving celebrations were held on the 27th of February, for the recovery of the Prince of Wales. At Bombay the Governor and officials attended the Cathedral in state, the Parsees assembled in their fire temples, the Jews in their synagogues, the Hindoos in their temples, and the Mohammedans and other religious sects in their several places of worship, and offered thanks according to their various rites for the recovery of the English Prince.

The Atlanta *Sun* describes a brilliant meteor seen there on the night of the 19th ult. It was seventy-five miles high and had a tail a hundred and fifty miles long. Might it not possibly have been one of Aleck's soaring editorials, magnified through an inverted glass?

Among the papers recently sought to be filed with the American and British Claims Commission is a memorial from Mrs. Jane P. Thurston, who claims to have made a legal purchase of the United States of America at public auction, at the Capital of the State of Maine, on June 5, 1870.

The Massachusetts Legislative Committee on the Judiciary is considering the expediency of providing proper and suitable institutions, other than jails and houses of correction, for the imprisonment and punishment of persons convicted of drunkenness.

A Western Democratic newspaper deliberately, and in a column article, accuses the President of having broken the Alabama treaty. We can't think how that sapient editor found it out, because we thought President Grant was entirely too much occupied at that time in preparing the typhoid fever for the Prince of Wales and in trying the French Commissioners.

General Weitzel's dam at Louisville has stood the severe test of the running ice, and remains as solid as the river bed itself. It will work will be actively prosecuted during the coming summer, and when finished there will exist a water power greater, it is claimed, than the whole of the Massachusetts water powers combined. The sluice in the dam will be about four hundred feet wide.

Nearly every brick belonging to ancient ruins in the mounds of Nineveh and Babylon bore characters upon them which are now guides in researches in the histories of dynasties remote as the epochs of Cyrus, Sardanapalus and Nebuchadnezzar.

A Lafayette editor recently foisted a patent wheel-spoke railroad map upon a wondering public, representing all the railroads, canals, plank roads, corduroys, and turnpikes in the universe converging at Lafayette. Since the publication of this topographical and typographical marvel all the newspapers in Hoosierdom have been going for it, and now an Indianapolis journal states that the author is having the map set to music, to be sung at the dedication of the new opera house in Lafayette.

PERSONAL.

The young King of Spain is referred to in a recent Madrid letter as follows: "In the course of the drive a young fellow went shying right up against the King's leaders, and half knocked the royal postilion out of his saddle, and the young coxcomb did it on purpose, too, for he neither took off his hat nor turned round to beg pardon. He just galloped away, while everybody was laughing and saying it was a good joke, and the poor Queen was as red as a lobster and the King hung his head. It might have been a good joke, but it was very bad manners. I am told such things happen not unfrequently. The King is a good looking young man, with a skin like Phillip II., and an eye like—well, not a good eye. I cannot compliment his eyes, and I should be rather sorry to know anybody intimately who had that sort of eyes. He is brave, and he is patient. I met him on the sidewalk this morning, walking up the street of Alcola, all alone, and with nothing which looked like a policeman within forty rods of him. He goes about like any other young man of his age, plainly dressed, with a little switch in his hand, completely unattended, and apparently as free from royal etiquette and royal apprehensions as the best democrat of them all. The threat of assassinating him has died out completely. He has quite shamed it out of his enemies."

The late Speaker of the English House of Commons has absolutely declined to accept the usual pension to which he is entitled, and it goes into the coffers of the Treasury. If he had accepted it, and then voluntarily devoted it to charitable purposes, as has been done in some instances, he would have had the sympathy of the public; but, as it is, he is classed with those mysterious beings who are constantly remitting to the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is called "conscience money."

Writing to his American publishers, the scribners, on the arbitration difficulty, the English historian, Froude, says: "I cannot tell you how grieved both I and any right-minded person in England cannot but be at the revival of the ugly question which we believed to be at rest forever. Some way out of the difficulty will surely be found when, on both sides, there is so much real good will." Amen!

It is said that the bitter ecclesiastical conflict between Bishop Whitehouse and Mr. Cheney arose by mere accident. Rev. Mr. Goodspeed, of the Second Baptist Church, Chicago, in a private conversation with Bishop Whitehouse, incidentally stated that Mr. Cheney did not use the word "regenerate" in the baptismal service for infants—not dreaming his remark would lead to such serious results. But for that conversation Mr. Cheney might have omitted the word "regenerate" until this day, as many other Episcopalian ministers have, without notice or comment.

General Sherman, Lieutenant Grant and party leave Naples to-day. They go to Constantinople and Egypt.

It is reported that Mr. Greeley, recently, in an interview with a prominent government official, avowed that he supposed he had got to support Grant if he was nominated. "I don't want to, but suppose I shall have to," were his words.

A report is going the rounds of the press that Sergeant Boston Corbett, the slayer of Wilkes Booth, is dead. If he is not he ought to be, for he has been in the grave nearly these two years.

We wish we knew his name, for he is a sensible man. The postmaster at Newburg, N. Y., refuses to allow bills to be posted in the office or on the building. He says there are newspapers for that sort of business.

Senator Sumner is not in favor of the proposed theologic amendment to the Constitution. A Jewish paper publishes a letter from him, in which he states he will present a petition against it "with pride and pleasure."

Lord Napier, of Merchiston, the Governor of Madras, has been ordered to proceed to Calcutta and exercise the functions of Viceroy until a successor to Lord Mayo shall be designated and shall arrive.

John Russell Young writes the leaders in the New York *Herald* sustaining the President. He is in Washington, a constant attendant on the Senate debates, and most of his articles are forwarded by telegraph.

FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

The Lenten Season--Its Pleasures and Pains.

Spring Fashions, New and Old.

What We Are to Wear at Home and Abroad.

DOLLY VARDEN.

Straws Which Show the Way the Wind Blows.

The month of March promises to be very quiet in the metropolis. Lent commenced early, and put a stop to all ceremonious visiting and entertainments, for though the majority of people in society are neither Catholics nor strict Episcopalians, yet there are a sufficient number of both to render it difficult to give parties, balls or receptions during Lent, without the certainty of excluding one's dearest friends or most desirable acquaintances. This accounts for the universal style in which the *Mardi Gras* (Shrove Tuesday) festivities are observed by persons whose consciences are untroubled by feasting or fasting, and explains how convictions and principles in some become matters of fashion and etiquette with others. A violent rain storm assisted at the celebration of *Mardi Gras* this year, but did not seem to interfere greatly with the scenes of gayety in progress. Every other house in the fashionable and some of the unfashionable quarters of the city was lit up from basement to attic, and by 9 P. M. not a carriage was to be had for less than double the usual prices, and at these only for the briefest possible space of time.

Dancing, music, charades, private theatricals, masquerades and leap year frolicking constituted the order of the night. "The last," as every one said, "of the carnival," and to see the ardor with which even staid and elderly, as well as young people, entered into these things, one would have supposed they were going home to sackcloth and ashes instead of good beds and comfortable breakfasts.

LENTEN OCCUPATIONS.

The lull is not, of course, unacceptable even to persons of the gayest tastes, as they have still dinners, lunches and quiet weekly reunions, interspersed with English opera, and other amusements to console themselves with, and are afforded an opportunity of inspecting spring fashions and deciding upon Easter toilettes.

At present they are neither systematised, nor understood; any vulgar, narrow, purse-proud woman who can bring together a number of people, imagines herself "society," but such are not, and never can be, true ladies. Wisdom, tact, judgment, forbearance, self sacrifice, devotion, are as necessary to success in this department as any other, and above all a power of appreciation and recognition possessed by very few men or women.

This is the secret of the failure of so many intelligent women in their attempts to establish salons, the combined influences of mutual culture as well as grace and refinement: the difficulty lies in themselves, not in the want of the proper material to work with. Alice Gray recently made the nearest approach to one that has ever existed in New York city, and this not by extraordinary effort, for she was physically incapable of it, but by her rare appreciation, and true discernment, and perfect freedom from jealousy. Few women with a special gift of their own could succeed in attracting around her others of so many and such varied faculties and attainments, but she did it because she rejoiced in them all, even more than she did in her own.

Certainly the quality that thoroughly understands and recognizes genius, is almost equal to genius itself.

Thanks to the enterprise of Mr. Carl Rosa, and the effective business management of her many gifted Parepa, the English opera season, so far, has been a brilliant success.

The audiences are singularly different in their personnel and general make up from the audiences of the Italian opera, but their numbers are as great and their enthusiasm more demonstrative. There is very little full dress seen even in the boxes, but there is evidence of a breaking up of winter attire, and the near approach of spring, in embroidery as a substitute for fur, and the occasional appearance of a light silk, or *crepe de chine* hat or bonnet.

Mr. Charles Santley, wonderful singer though he is, has failed to make the impression on opera which he was expected from his reputation and success in concert and oratorio. His chief merit, in fact, lies in his truth and fidelity to his art; his great genius, in his extraordinary versatility and flexibility, in that he can sing tenor parts as well as basso and baritone, and is absolutely faultless in his expression of every note in his extensive range, but he is no actor. He has no dramatic fire, no passion, no intensity, and contents himself with singing the music of his part without any attempt to characterize the *role*. Wachtel has been alluded to the corps for the Easter performances, and Parepa, Wachtel and Santley will compose a trio that ought to be memorable. A small sensation was excited by the first production of "Marriage" at the St. James Theater (Mr. McKaye's.) It is rather odd that the theater bearing the name of the "Hall of Marriage" should be the scene of the first production of a play which pleads a martyr to her sense of duty, and the only relief to the feelings of the audience is a secret consciousness that she might not have been much better off if she had run away with the "other" man.

SPRING FASHIONS.

If the fine February weather is not followed by an unusually chilly and severe March, the spring changes of style and texture will take place at an early date. Already preparations are being made on a large scale for the spring opening of bonnets and costumes, while the stores are full of pretty spring fabrics and advance styles, which leave little for future events to disclose.

Of genuine novelty there is, of course, very little; there is nowhere for it to come from. Paris has had restored to it some of its old trade, but no fashion, and its broken and depressed condition affords little hope for the immediate future. Germany left to itself, sticks to its traditions, and would not change its fashions oftener than once in a century; whatever we have had, therefore, or are likely to get for the present of distinctive dress that we must take its rise in English or American skill and enterprise, and not in foreign effort or genius.

In truth women are very much at the mercy of designing dress-makers and extravagant *modistes*. Without any ideas of their own the majority of them fall an easy prey to the whims or personal objects of those in whom they have been accustomed to place confidence. Obedient to their autocratic mandates they continue to put thirty to forty yards of material in one suit, and before it is done alter it over at additional expense and trouble into something else.

The correspondents' column of a fashion journal or magazine is really a curious study. Nine-tenths of the questions consist of anxious inquiries how to make over dresses that are just as good as new," but have overskirts that are too short or waists that are too long, or sleeves that are too wide, or ruffles that are too narrow, or skirts that are too full or too scant, or too much trimmed, or not trimmed enough, but that whether good, or becoming, or not, must be remodeled according to some newly conceived idea of the prevailing fashion.

SPRING FABRICS.

Whatever may be said as to "designs, it is easy to see that English taste has inspired our early spring materials, the patterns being almost uniformly large figured, and many colored. It is generally understood, even in the English market, that New York, like Paris, requires, or at least prefers, soft colors, or quiet patterns, and the "Dolly Varden" *furore* offers a temptation which could not be resisted, and if American women wear all the chintz prints and cambrics and silks and delaines that have been imported for their benefit, the entire season will look as if they had gone masquerading in the curtains of their great grandmama's four-post bedstead.

There are some pretty striped cambrics, and woven soft finished silk with a twill in the new leaf cameo "mikado" buff and delicate *printemps* (light gray) shades of color, but they are over-shadowed, put out of countenance for the time being, by the gaily-flowered cottony woolens and silk foulards with black or white grounds which obtrude themselves everywhere in a way which that pretty and quetish kind of humbug and well-behaved young damsel would never have sanctioned.

A new twilled cotton goods is imported in dress patterns, accompanied by a plaited trimming, all ready to make up into suits. It is soft, finished without gloss, and not at all expensive, but it has had the bad name given to it of Japanese *pique*, and one trial of the so-called Japanese goods with which the market has been flooded during the past two years is generally sufficient to last a life time.

Of course they appear in force this season also—in hair-stripes, in *grisaille* stripes, and checks in mottled and *chene* patterns in all the delusive styles, in short, which can be borrowed, to make them seem like something they are not. Prices are the same, from seventy-five cents to one dollar and a quarter per yard; indeed prices do not seem to vary any from last year for dress materials of any kind.

New American silks of the Manchester manufacture are attracting much attention from their great superiority of color and texture and their adaptability to the purposes of handsome street suits. The American *gros grains* have heretofore been black or gray; they are now produced in several of the most fashionable tints and colors, and also in hair stripes, uniting two shades of the same color, with exceeding good effect.

They have not much gloss but they have been tested and are known to be all silk, while their soft texture gives them the appearance of silk of high cost, and they possess the unusual quality of rather improving than otherwise by wear.

PLAIN STRIPED SILKS

And pongees are already very much in demand for spring wear, but black in silk or cashmere will be considered more distinguished. Rarely has anything been introduced so distinctively graceful and becoming as these rich costumes in black cashmere enriched with lace and embroidery or embroidery and fringe, and though they are and must remain costly, yet their beauty and elegance offer at least some compensation for the expenditure, which is more than can be said of other things upon which large sums of money are expended.

Nun's serge retains its prestige upon ladies of the best taste and constitutes an excellent and inexpensive material, comparatively, for a useful spring costume.

All the lighter spring materials, such as the summer poplins and mohairs, find an additional attraction in the quiet leaf and wood tinted colors that are now so fashionable. Faintest buffs, palest browns, lightest cinnamons and softest greys harmonize admirably with the pale, tender blues, pinks and greens, which in scarf for the neck, or silken tie, afford the relief of a delicate contrast.

TINTS AND COLORS.

Attention to details of color, or rather the absence of color, is really just at present the most marked indication of high fashion. The lightest colors worn one, two and three years ago look positive and pronounced beside the infinite and subtle variety of mere shades and tints which have taken their place. An educated taste alone can distinguish or appreciate the difference, and therefore in the absence of distinguishing novelty, and in a period when everybody's wife wears lace and diamonds, color becomes the test which is applied to discover the absence or presence of the lady. The costumes, composed of three tints or shades of one color, which appeared last year, and indicated an approach to real art in dress have been so caricatured by vulgar attempts at imitation as to have lost prestige; and, in fact, the difficulty of carrying out ideas of this kind through all the details of a complete toilette are so many, and involve such labor and cost, that few would care to undertake it a second time.

Neutrality, however, if not uniformity, is now demanded for street dress, and gives a quiet and effective tone to even the most ordinary costume. No return to high or low variegated colors is possible in street attire during the present century, so that here is one fact to which women may anchor, and which may be considered beyond the changes and mutations of fashion.

In the superabundance of styles, colors and materials, it is much better for ladies to make up their minds as to what it is best they should adopt in the way of dress, and stick to it without any reference to the fancies or caprices which may afterwards be urged upon them; though they miss the gratification of a whim, they will find this method much more satisfactory in the end.

NOTHING NEW IN STYLE.

There is absolutely nothing new in styles, but there are many fresh adaptations of old styles. Suits are made with two skirts and a basque, or with a circular mantle as an outside garment, or with a skirt and polonaise. The overskirts are all long in the back, with round apron fronts, and are rendered more *bouffant* by being looped higher at the sides.

The most fashionable polonaise for house wear is the vest polonaise, which is also used for "Dolly Vardens," and is cut all in one piece, *a la gabrielle*. It closes up the front with hooks and loops, covered by round bows or rosettes of velvet or ribbon, or by loops of black velvet through which pearl slides are passed.

The "Dolly Varden," of course, is not worn in the street, but it is an institution for the house, with a plain, semi-trained skirt, and is frequently accompanied by a coquettish little "Dolly Varden" cap, for description of which see Dickens's "Barnaby Rudge."

A talma, with a cape-like pleat in the back, is also used to complete street suits, but neither this nor the circular mantle are considered as adapted to silk, the form being too *negligé* and not sufficiently dressy for silk suits.

The "French blouse" waist—the old, simple French waist, cut with a spring over the hips—is a favorite style for washing dresses and wash-silks, and has quite displaced the plaited or the pleated "skirt" waist of last season. A single skirt, cut rather long, attached to a belt, and put on over the waist, with a second belt ornamented with a bow at the back, completes a neat print, cambric, gingham or linen dress for the house, while two skirts and a belt, to which a postillion is attached, renders it a complete dress suit.

A double talma, the upper one open on the back, is sometimes attached to these tucks.

Flounces are principally confined to lower and trained skirts, and the pattern houses issue paper models of the correct depth and pleated as they should be worn. Some are boxed, some are knife-pleated, and others festooned. The design is a matter of taste, but in the absence of exact knowledge the paper models will be a relief to many perplexed ladies who make their own dresses.

Upper skirts are ornamented with flat trimmings, with a bordering of lace, or fringe, when fine fabrics in silk or wool, but washing tucks retain, in many instances, the uniform pleatings of last year.

WHITE SUITS

In *piqué*, linen, Victoria lawn and India mills, are already displayed, and will be worn, both for the house and the street, as summer advances. Heatings and embroidered insertions, which can now be bought ready made at very reasonable prices, are used for trimming linen and *piqué*, while for the Victoria lawn ruffles and pleatings of the material are used, and for the finer and softer goods Tuscan flounces of the muslin headed by bands of fine needlework.

NEW BONNETS.

Nothing very novel in shape or design need be expected this season in bonnets. The revival of straw, which commenced last year, has been vigorously followed up by straw dealers and manufacturers, and straw will be the popular wear during the spring and summer, varied among fashionable women by lace and *crepe* arranged to match certain costumes.

The shapes are so infinitely varied and are so much the work of freak and fancy that it is impossible as well as unnecessary to describe them. It is sufficient to say that they are not materially altered or changed, and still retain the mongrel characteristics—half hat half bonnet—which have distinguished them for the past two or three years. At present there is no decisive step to consult upon. The new importations are always the work of the previous season and follow its latest and most popular ideas. Novelty comes afterwards as the result of more distinctive enterprise and effort, and sometimes takes such hold of the public imagination as to quite run the old competitors off the field.

It is hardly to be, however, that we shall for some time to come be the victims of as complete a revelation as that which gave us the towering coal scuttles of '41 and '42. They were too hideous, too self-asserting and would interfere too seriously with the hair interest, the trade in which has almost assumed the proportions of that in millinery. There is a great variety of fancy straws, but the white and black are the most lady-like for traveling and *negligé*, while the fine white English straw, the delicate chip and the pretty Italian straw furnish a charming variety from which to select more elegant chapeaux.

Embroidered straws are quite a feature, but they present always the difficulty of not being adapted to the ordinary toilette and in these days when harmony is everything, even a pretty thing ceases to be pretty, unless it is found in its proper place and surrounded by its proper accessories. For the benefit of those who can afford destructive toilettes it may be remarked that straw embroidered upon straw looks admirably with buff *guipure* to match. Black velvet and lace, with a pink rose, may constitute the trimming, particularly if the dress is looped and trimmed with black velvet.

TRIMMINGS.

Quite new effects are produced in flowers, ribbons and other trimmings by delicate contrasts of color or by uniting two shades of the same color. The roses have crushed leaves and are in soft neutral color, with brightly yet lightly twisted edges, harmonizing with the costumes and their accessories. Many of the ribbons are in two shades of the same color, the darker shade forming a narrow border on both sides.

JENNIE JUNE.

Aggravated Indigestion.

Persons who are predisposed to dyspepsia find their sufferings from this cause greatly aggravated by damp weather, easterly winds and sudden changes from a mild to a chilling atmosphere. In the spring, therefore, the pangs of indigestion are seriously augmented by the atmospheric variations peculiar to the season, and it is incumbent upon all who desire to pass through the ordeal of its cold mists and insalubrious gales with easy stomachs, and untormented by the indescribable torments which accompany dyspepsia, to tone and strengthen the digestive organs with a healthful and effective vegetable invigorant; and no one at all familiar with the medical record of the age, can question for one moment that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is the tonic best adapted to this purpose.

The credentials of the Great Restorative are unequalled in number and character by those of any other advertised medicine in the world. If ever there was a preparation to rank as a National Remedy, this wonderful specific has a fair claim to the title. For a period of seventy years it has literally been the Champion Tonic and Alterative on this side of the Atlantic. In popularity it has never been approached by any of its would-be competitors, and its annual sales are so far in advance of those of any other medicine of its class, that comparisons would be ridiculous. One of two conclusions is inevitable. Either the American people are deficient in common sense, and incapable of rational discrimination, or Hostetter's Bitters is the best preventive remedy for indigestion, fever and ague, bilious remittent fever, constipation, rheumatism, nervous complaints, and all maladies of an epidemic or endemic type. The reader will judge for himself which of the two conclusions is most consistent with fact and reason.

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FINANCE AND TRADE

TUESDAY EVENING, February 29, 1872.

The report of the Congressional Investigating Committee on the financial condition of the Southern States gives much information of interest to those buying Southern securities, in hopes of their ultimate payment, or of their being funded into long bonds at a low rate of interest. The report will help buyers in forming an intelligent opinion what States to choose from.

Virginia had, at the close of the war, a debt of over forty millions, and not being able to meet the interest in the then crippled condition of the State, the overdue interest ran the debt up in 1871 to forty-five millions, one-third of which should belong to West Virginia. Last year this debt was funded into 5 per cents at the rate of 66 2-3 cents on the dollar. The Legislature repudiated it; because the banks will not agree to pay the expense by a new tax. Mr. Monroe says it would cost each country bank about $50 dollars to get one cashier. The same thing has been tried several times before. The bill went along nicely till it was then it broke down, and the few who were willing to stand by it were not enough to enforce a call of the ayes and nays.—*Bulletin.*

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Penn's Central	93½	Lehigh Valley R. R.	62¾
Phila. and Erie	26½	North Penn'a R. R.	49
Lehigh Navigation	29½	Camden and Amboy	125¾
Catawissa	40	Mahanoy and Navigation	16½
Oil Creek & Alley'n.	37	Reading	98½

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, February 28, 1872.

Below will be found our review of the live stock market for the week ending to-day.

Cattle.

At the close of last week's report we remarked the market was active on the best grades of stock which sold readily for good prices. On common trade was not so good, they were in larger supply and as is always the case when the offerings consist principally of lower grades, they sell slow while good sell quicker and for better prices relatively. The feeling on Wednesday was pretty good and no difficulty was experienced by those who had good cattle in selling them. On Thursday the market was somewhat unsettled and not quite as good feeling among both buyers and sellers. All of the best cattle that were offered sold readily, and on Thursday evening most everything good was either sold or shipped out, and the former prices ruled. On Friday the receipts of both through cattle and those intended for sale here were light, though a good many eastern bound were behind time There was but little done in the yards on Friday, most of the buyers had gone out, the cattle that were light,and advices from New York not of the most favorable character; under this combination of circumstances, as above noted trade ruled very dull and slow, only one or two loads of stock selling during the entire day. On Saturday there was nothing done in the cattle line. A load or two was sent to Allegheny for retail, and the market closed dull with downward feeling. This week up till Tuesday the receipts were fair, and the quality of the offerings not so good as last week, consisting nearly all of medium and common cattle. On Tuesday nothing of any consequence was done, in fact hardly enough cattle changed hands on which to base quotations. Holders, however, were asking about last week prices. The advices from Philadelphia were bad, and buyers from there were not in market. On Wednesday the market opened up slow, with a fair supply offering, but most of it common grades. Buyers all complained that scarcely any good cattle were on sale. Trade was not very active, the Philadelphia buyers bearing down hard, and pleading in justification therefor the condition of their last market, which from all accounts was very harsh. What trade there was been sold to this time are reported at figures ½c lower than last week. Trade has ruled dull, and from appearances we do not look for much improvement the balance of the week.

Stockers.

The offerings of stockers continues light. There is a fair demand for them at low figures, in fact so slow they cannot be bought here to be sold. Western farmers are taking hold lively, and last week at Chicago, the market was active with a demand exceeding the supply, and sales were made from $3 50 to $4 50. While the demand among western men continues, there is but little chance for them to find their way east.

Prices.

Following are the current prices for the different grades of cattle: Extra 1,300 to 1,500 lbs steers, $6 25 to $6 50; prime, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs, $5 50 to $6 00; common to medium, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs, $4 75 to $5 25; bulls, $2 75 to $3 50; cows, &c., $3 50 to $4 50.

Hogs

At the time of closing our last report the market was slow on the best grades of hogs,buyers wanting to purchase at lower figures. There were but few selling and the top of the market was $5 65. On Thursday trade opened up slow, the run of hogs was not heavy but with a decreased demand there was enough to meet the wants of buyers, not a great many changed hands, the market closing dull and weak at lower. On Friday the receipts were light and in quality better than at the first of the week. The market opened up slow and ruled dull throughout, not many hogs changing hands, $5 50 being the highest prices for extra hogs. On Saturday not much was done in the way of trade, and what little was done, was at low figures, the market closing dull and weak with very prospect of going lower. The receipts this week to this time have been moderate and in quality fair. The feeling continues depressed and the sales are made very slow. Advices from Philadelphia are not good, and buyers for extra hogs are purchasing lightly. At the close of our last report the market for extra hogs was $5 65 and on Saturday $5 50 is the highest figure, a decline during the week past of 35c @ 100 lbs. The decline was not sudden, but the market went gradually down a little each day. Following are the rates current for the different grades: Extra Philadelphia $5 35 to $5 50; prime Philadelphia $5 00 to $5 10; Yorkers $4 60 to $4 75; common $4 35 to $4 50.

Sheep.

At the close of last week's report the sheep trade was active, the arrivals were light and with a fair demand, especially for the best grades, the market was good. During the balance of the week there was no change in the trade worthy of note. This week the market opened up with as fair a supply on sale and on Tuesday dealers reported the market closing firm

THE VERY LATEST.

XLII. CONGRESS.

Close of the Arms-Sale Debate in the Senate.

Mr. Sumner's Resolution Adopted.

The Preamble Laid on the Table

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 28, 1872.

SENATE.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, a bill was passed exempting from internal tax canned fruits, preserves, jellies, mustard, &c.

Mr. TRUMBULL, from the Judiciary Committee, reported adversely the bill to permit criminals to testify in their own defense. The bill was placed on the calendar.

Mr. CHANDLER, rising to a personal explanation, read a letter from a gentleman in Jackson, Mich., stating that somebody had sent him certain "reform movement" and "Liberal Republican" documents under his succession as the confirmatory details became known. Crowds are still collected in the streets, discussing the news and awaiting further particulars. An official statement of the facts was promptly made in Parliament this evening, which, when it became known outside, greatly relieved the public anxiety.

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RIVER REPORT.

War Department, Signal Service, U. S. A., Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce.

February 29, 1872, 3 P. M.

Stations.	Rise. Feet.	Inch.	Fall. Feet.	Inch.
Cairo, Ills.	0	0	0	1
Cincinnati, Ohio.	0	6	0	0
Louisville, Ky.	0	6	0	6
Memphis, Tenn.	0	4	0	0
Nashville, Tenn.	0	0	0	3
New Orleans, La.	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh, Pa.	0	0	0	3
Shreveport, La.	0	2	0	0
St. Louis, Mo.	0	0	0	1
St. Paul.	—	—	—	—
Vicksburg, Miss.	1	3	0	0

"Rise and fall in last twenty-four hours. Dash — indicates river closed.

ADDITIONAL RIVER DISPATCHES.

Madison.

MADISON, February 29.—Guns are being fired tonight in honor of the opening of the Louisville canal and the arrival at the Madison ship-yards of the Keokuk Packet Company's boats Fannie Lewis and Post Boy. There is great rejoicing among river men.

Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, February 29.—The river has fallen in the last twenty-four hours 8¼ feet; six feet in the canal, and four feet six inches in the chute. The heaviest fall of snow of the season occurred last night; it covered the ground eight or nine inches in a few hours. Cold; mercury ranged from 30 to 35. Business not so active. Arrived—Charmer, Cincinnati; Kate Robinson, canal, Memphis; Bermuda, canal, Evansville; Argosy and barges and J. H. Groesbeck, canal, New Orleans. Departed—Kate Robinson, Bermuda, Argosy and barges, Cincinnati; Charmer, canal, Evansville.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, February 29.—Cloudy and cool. River rising steadily. Arrived—Allen, Arkansas River; Grand Tower, St. Louis. Departed—Sioux City, White River; Colossal, Alice Dean, New Orleans; Katie Kountz, St. Louis; Colorado, Vicksburg; Pink Varnie, Arkansas River.

Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, February 29.—Down—H. M. Shreve, 6 A. M.; Warner and barges, 12 M.; City of Alton, 6 P. M. Up—Mary Houston, 12 M.; Indiana, 12 M.; C. B. Church, 6 P. M. Cool and clear; river rising.

Little Rock.

LITTLE ROCK, February 29.—Cloudy and disagreeable. River falling; three feet eight inches at this point. Departed—Mary Boyd, Memphis.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

District Court—Judge Kirkpatrick.

In the case of James Rees vs. Joseph Tomlinson et al., the jury found for plaintiff for $1,021 62.

A. Radford vs. R. E. Howard. This was an action on a promissory note. Verdict for plaintiff for $137 99.

Alexander Jones vs. Thomas Sinclair. This was an action to recover damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained by plaintiff by the giving way of a vault grating in front of defendant's store on Market street. Jury out.

The next case taken up was that of Wm. J. Anderson, executor of John Anderson, deceased, vs. the Pittsburgh Farmers and Mechanics Turnpike Road Company. This was a *sci. fa.* to revive a judgment obtained prior to 1864, at which time the franchises of the road were sold by the Sheriff. On trial.

Common Pleas—Judges Sterrett, Stowe and Collier.

This Court is still engaged on the argument list.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Attempt to Assassinate Queen Victoria.

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LONDON, February 29, Evening.—A miscreant this afternoon fired a pistol at Queen Victoria, while she was driving on Constitutional Hill, happily without effect. The would-be assassin was promptly arrested.

Great Excitement in London Over the Attempt on the Queen's Life—The Would-be Murderer Generally Crazy.

LONDON, February 29, Midnight.—The excitement to-night over the report of an attempt on the life of the Queen is intense. Extras of the evening papers appeared in rapid succession as the confirmatory details became known. Crowds are still collected in the streets, discussing the news and awaiting further particulars. An official statement of the facts was promptly made in Parliament this evening, which, when it became known outside, greatly relieved the public anxiety.

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CITY MATTERS.

REGISTER GRAY'S REPORT.

The Business During February—Wills Admitted to Probate—Letters of Administration Granted.

Register Joseph H. Gray, Esq., transacted the following business during the month of February:

WILLS ADMITTED TO PROBATE.

Decedents.	Executors
Samuel A. McCoy	John McCoy
Jos. B. Cracraft	Andrew B. Young.
Leonard Plank	Graham Scott.
John M. Schnaufer	Leonard Hubs.
Edward DeBarrenne	J. A. Schnaufer. Jane E. DeBarrenne.
George Herbst	Howard Little.
John Ruehl	Philomena Herbst.
Christian Schmeltz	Casper Rahm.
J. B. Tomlinson	Anna O. Schmeltz.
Mary Moore	Wm. C. Bracken.
Maria Richards	John S. Hollingshead.
Mary Carnahan	John Ralston.
Anton Bauer	Executors
George B. Neely	Samuel R. Neely. James S. Neely.
Thomas Neel	John Wineman
Catharine S. Bigley	Dickson Bigley
Margaret P. Norsh	Laura Norsh.
Patrick McGonagle	Christian Abbott. John Kemp.
August Abbott	
Stephen Eshart	Anna M. Strain. John Rauber.
Casper Strain	Mary Ann Selworth. Jacob Knapp.
Jacob Selworth	

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED.

Decedent.	Administrators.	Bond.
Samuel McCoy	Eliza A. McCoy	$2,000
Valentine Stragand	George Mossung	1,200
David Lennum	David Pollock, Jr.	1,000
Henry Osterling	C. F. W. Broslit. George Wolf.	800
Hetty A. Anderson	John Way, Jr.	3,000
Price C. Anderson	John Way, Jr.	3,000
W. C. Adams	J. A. Baldwin	10,000
David Stratton	Joseph Stratton	1,000
James Gibson	W. W. Powers	2,000
Stephen Eckhardt	John Cober	5,000
Henry Eburg	F. D. Gedat	400
Dorothea Brubach	Dorothea Brubach	400
Eliza C. Garrard	John F. Garrard	1,000
Patrick Markham	Samuel Markham	200
Michael Plunk	Jacob Weber	1,200
Conrad Sherer	Adam Frandt	600
David Cunningham	Jesse Cunningham	6,000
John McKee	Samuel McKee	100
Thomas Moore	Mary Brown	6,000
Henry Smith	Charles Harbach	400
John Rohner	Mrs. Maria Rohner	200
Jacob Berchel	Ann Berchel	400
Anthony Bower	Magdalena Bower	5,000
Robert Jamison	Kate A. Jamison	6,000
Andrew M. Toner	Rebecca Toner	2,000
James McGann	Mary A. McGann	2,000
John Otto	Daniel Otto	200
Joseph Babilon	Barbara Babilon	1,000
Henry Lobner	George Lobner	100
D. M. Mullin	Eleanor Mullin	1,000
Christian Schnell	John Schnell	2,000
Charles Johnston	Adolph Leibel	800
Joseph Guth	Joseph Guth, Jr.	200
Henry Brown	Carolina Brown	200
John Porter	Wm. Donahue	14,000
Elizabeth Kerr	Jane Kerr	4,000
John Reynolds	Thomas Reynolds	14,000
T. Meyer	James Salisbury	900

THE WHISKY CORNER.

An Extraordinary Statement—The Old Whiskey in This City—A Ridiculous Telegram, &c., &c.

The telegraph brought to us yesterday an account of "one of the greatest whisky transactions in the history of the trade." The telegram was to the effect that T. Suit & Co, of Louisville had effectually cornered the market in old whiskies, "a movement which the firm had been planning for months" and, as the telegraph states, succeeded in accomplishing it. It is scarcely necessary to quote further from the telegram than to give the reason for the purpose of contradiction: "Their (Suit & Co.) purchases in New York city alone amount to over a million dollars, and the aggregate purchases about three millions. This purchase embraces nearly all the reliable old whiskies in the market, and will therefore probably affect the price of all other grades." Finally the telegrama states that "Suit & Co. now own, all the available stocks of old whiskies in the United States, which, of course, includes about all in the world." That such a ridiculous piece of humbug could be published by an agent of the Associated Press is to be wondered at. The party makes a great bull in supposing that $3,000,000 would purchase all the old whisky in the United States to corner the market. Yesterday one of our reporters inquired if some of our own whisky dealers were not in "the ring." The result of his observations are as follows: There are in the city of Pittsburgh to-day about 17,650 barrels of old whiskies, at the lowest possible calculation, and the stock will average, at selling prices, two-thirds of the whole amount of the money invested to "corner" the market. The leading holders of old whiskies in this city are Littell & Mechling, Schmidt & Friday, McKim & Co., Joseph S. Finch, D. R. Galway, John Watson, M. McCullough, Jr. S. McCracken & Co., John Dilworth, Bro. & Co., and Messrs. Scheively, Gegan, Moore, Everett, Bryar, Buckenheimer, and others, who, if they were so disposed, could "knock spots" out of the Louisville firm in its attempt to "corner" the market. One dozen such purchasers as that reported by the Louisville firm would not amount to a cypher in cornering the market. It may be that the Louisville firm has purchased a large amount of Bourbon whiskies in New York and Kentucky, but the three million dollars which they are reported to have invested in the business will not touch one-tenth of the old rye whisky in this state alone. In Greensburg there is over one-half a million dollars worth of whisky, at least eighteen months old, and the same could be found in other portions of Western Pennsylvania there can be enough found to satisfy several "rings" with a capital of $3,000,000 each. It is almost unnecessary to add that none of the above firms are connected with the "Louisville Ring," nor do they fear any sudden change in the market from the ridiculous statement telegraphed over the country.

THE JAPANESE TRICK.

An Old Game in a New Dress.

Yesterday a well known Pittsburgher arrived in the city after a jaunt to the far West. He explained to some friends whom he met in the Union Depot a new game that he had learned. "You see," said he, "we were coming along pretty lively between Alliance and Enon, when at a way station a rather smartly dressed young man entered the car and took a seat beside me. He had not been seated long before he entered into conversation. He had been away out West, and on his return to the States he had traveled a portion of the way with the Japanese embassy. One of the children of the Orient had taught him a game, which he said I, turning it up, and I was right. "Well, now, said he, "that's strange, let me try again. I am only learning." So he threw them around again, and as chance would have it, turned a card with the woman on it in the middle. "Now," said he, "you cannot tell where the woman is." "Yes I can," says I, for I know she is the middle card. "Well, then I'll bet you ten dollars you cannot," said he. "Here's your ten, and I'll bet you twenty more," said my new acquaintance. I put up twenty more, and then, knowing that I was sure thing, and keeping my eye on the woman card in the middle, I increased the bet until we had two hundred dollars a side up, when I called for a decision, and he made me turn the card over. With one hand I reached over to receive the stakes while with the other I turned the card, and, do you believe me, that woman was a new acquaintance. I never have left the car with his spoils at Enon Station. I do not want to see a Japanese trick for the next ten years." And here we had "three-card monte" blamed on the poor Japanese.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

M'lle Marietta Ravel's benefit occurs tonight, when she will appear as *Wild Cat*, in the drama of that name, and also in the "French Spy," sustaining three characters. She has no superior in the latter play.

Fifth Avenue Opera House.

For her benefit to-night, Miss Aday Gray appears in "Leonie, or Love Wins," one of the best new plays we have had this season. Miss Gray is a talented painstaking actress, and deserves the compliment of a much larger audience than she has yet had during her brief stay with us.

Varieties Theater.

Fitzsimmons had a rousing benefit last night, and deserved it all and more. The advertisement elsewhere says "a big bill to-night."

Wendell Phillips.

On Tuesday evening next Wendell Phillips will speak at Library Hall, his being the fourteenth lecture of the Mercantile Library course. It is not yet known what subject Mr. Phillips will discuss, but it is safe to predict that he will have as many hearers as the house will hold. Prof. Toerge's orchestra will furnish music on the occasion.

CLEAN YOUR PAVEMENTS.

The Ordinance to be Enforced.

It is the determination of Mayor Blackmore to keep the sidewalks clean. Section 6, page 285 of Slagle's Code of City Ordinances says: "Every person who shall inhabit the front shop, house or building adjoining to or fronting on any paved footway in the city of Pittsburgh shall cause the footway in front of the lot so occupied to be swept and cleaned at least twice in each week—on Wednesday and Saturday of each week, before nine o'clock in the morning—and shall also keep the gutters or water-table open and clean, and when snow shall fall remove the same within two of the hours after the same shall cease to fall. Any person who shall neglect to comply with the provisions hereof shall forfeit for each offense, the sum of two dollars."

The attention of those concerned is called to this ordinance as Mayor Blackmore is determined to put it into effect from and after today.

The Sprague Habeas Corpus.

In the Common Pleas Court, yesterday, Mr. B. E. Cooper made answer to the writ issued at the suit of Edwin Sprague, commanding him and Mrs. Eleanor Wilson to produce the body of Amy E. Sprague, daughter of the petitioner, whom he alleged was illegally restrained of her liberty. Mr. Cooper denied that he had any control over the child, and stated that he permitted her to remain in his house simply out of charity, and had notified her father that she was at his house. As the order was not controverted, the Court ordered Mr. Cooper's discharge, and by consent the final hearing was continued until further notice. In the meantime it was directed that the child should be committed to the custody of her aunt, Eleanor Wilson, her father to be permitted, at all reasonable times, to visit her.

SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

The County Association—Reports—Election of Officers—The Closing Meeting, etc.

The second session of the Allegheny County Sabbath School Association was opened yesterday afternoon, at half-past two o'clock, in the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. S. F. Scovel, pastor. The first half hour was spent in devotional exercises, participated in by the President, Mr. Bakewell, the Recording Secretary, Rev. R. T. Miller, Rev. S. F. Scovel, Rev. Mr. Stenchell and others.

Mr. Scovel remarked that the relation between the Sabbath school and the church was better understood than ever before—that the exposition of the Scriptures, which had been so largely neglected in the pulpit under modern influences, was compensated in a great measure by the work done in the Sabbath school. He believed the pulpit would return to the old method of exposition, but until that time the Sabbath school would have to be depended upon mainly for the expounding of the Scriptures.

Rev. J. D. Herr made some remarks on the Providential aspects of the Sabbath School movement. He thought that God was moving the hearts of the people in the interests of the children, and that the youth of the land were being largely converted. The evangelization of the world might be made to depend on the youth of the present generation.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS.

The reports of the officers of the Association were declared next in order.

Mr. J. D. Carlisle, Treasurer, made a statement of the financial affairs of the Association, of which the following is a summary:

	Dr.
By proceeds of Church Sociable	$415 00
By credit subscriptions, of '85 each, to Library	40 00
By collections at county meetings	61 29
Total	$216 79
	Cr.
To Secretary of State Society	$ 35 00
To table for Reading Room	15 00
To printing	57 97
To postage, etc.	57 69
To traveling expenses	6 05
Total	$134 71
Balance on hand	82 08

There are on hand and unpaid bills amounting to fifty-eight dollars, leaving a balance of about twenty dollars in the treasury.

The Treasurer's account was audited by T. J. Gillespie and J. D. Herr.

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Mr. T. J. Gillespie, Corresponding Secretary, then read his annual report, reviewing the work of the year, which was full of encouragement. Under the head of statistics the report says: "We have not made any further efforts at securing statistics of the condition of our schools, but have been endeavoring to secure our list of Assistant Corresponding Secretaries that we may have such an assistant in each ward, borough and township in the county. We have almost succeeded in accomplishing this, and we now have our work so systematized that we anticipate that our successors will have no difficulty in securing complete and reliable statistics of the work in the county in time to have them published and ready for distribution before the meeting of the State Convention in June.

The report was accepted.

The election of officers to serve for the ensuing year was next in order.

On motion, Messrs. J. D. Herr, W. A. Davidson, J. D. Carlisle and H. K. Porter were appointed a nominating committee.

During the absence of the committee, Rev. G. A. Peltz made a brief address, and was followed by Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Bakerstown.

The Nominating Committee then reported the following officers:

President—Thomas Bakewell.

First Vice President—J. H. Baldwin.

Second Vice President—Rev. A. J. Rhond.

Recording Secretary—Rev. D. D. Jones.

Corresponding Secretary—T. J. Gillespie.

Treasurer—J. D. Carlisle.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Rev. S. F. Scovel,	A. McLaughlin,
Rev. J. D. Herr,	James King,
Rev. W. T. Beatty,	Thos. H. Rabe,
Rev. I. W. McKeever,	H. K. Porter,
Rev. B. F. Woodburn,	T. F. Scott,
Rev. W. A. Davidson,	J. H. Chalmers.
Robert Carr,	W. Johnston.

The officers nominated were unanimously elected, notwithstanding the President, Mr. Bakewell, positively declined to serve.

The subject of giving instruction in the several classes—Infant, Intermediate and Adult—was then discussed. Rev. George A. Peltz answered questions and made suggestions in regard to "opening" for the Infant classes. In regard to the Infant classes, and Mr. D. D. Jones in reference to adults. Superintendents, etc., etc. Rev. Mr. Tyler answered questions and made suggestions in the Intermediate classes. The questions asked by the audience were the means of calling out much valuable information.

The convention then adjourned.

EVENING MEETING.

A mass meeting was held in the evening, in the same church, a large audience being present.

Interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. George A. Peltz, Rev. Albert Taylor and H. Thane Miller.

THE CRIMINAL COURT.

The March Term—List of Grand Jurors—Trial List for Monday.

The March term of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions will begin on Monday next, Judge Stowe presiding. The calendar will be an unusually large one, as there are some eighty prisoners awaiting trial, in addition to the offenders on bail. The jail now contains one hundred and thirty-one inmates.

LIST OF GRAND JURORS.

The following is a list of the Grand Jurors summoned to attend the March session:

James Atkinson, bricklayer, Fifteenth ward, Pittsburgh.

Howard Baird, farmer, Leet township.

Johnston Black, fireman, Seventh ward, Pittsburgh.

J. H. Courtney, broker, Fourth ward, Pittsburgh.

John A. Connor, shoemaker, Plum township.

Thos. Edward, storekeeper, Etna.

Geo. Ford, farmer, Franklin, township.

Andrew Ferguson, Mifflin township.

John W. Johns, clerk, First ward, Pittsburgh.

Thomas King, carpenter, East Birmingham.

John W. Kercher, Twenty-third ward, Pittsburgh.

Addison Lysle, coal merchant, Allegheny.

G. H. Liethead, East Birmingham.

Wm. Mitchell, merchant, Fourteenth ward, Pittsburgh.

Albert, Moore, carpenter, Sewickley boro.

W. J. J. Matthews, clerk, Seventh ward, Pittsburgh.

Henry McCune, lawer, S. Fayette.

John McConnell, grocer, Allegheny.

John Paul, manufacturer, Twenty-third ward.

Thomas Rancel, carpenter, Eighteenth ward.

Geo. Schlittenberg, carpenter, Allegheny.

B. A. Sampson, alderman, Allegheny.

John Wareham, carpenter, Birmingham.

Jesse Wells, (colored,) Third ward, Pittsburgh.

TRIAL LIST FOR MONDAY.

District Attorney Bayne has arranged the following list of cases to be tried on Monday:

Commonwealth against

Sarah Casey.	Ellen Carey.
Jas. Shafner et al.	John Berger.
Wm. De Hamie.	Leopold Hart.
Michael Fox.	Fred. Fritch.
Wm. Modl.	Eccles Robinson.
Bernard Aikins.	Frank Byrne, 9 cases.
Barbara Stein.	John Grant.

A WOMAN SNEAK THIEF.

Caught in the Act.

Yesterday a woman went unperceived into a bedroom in the tavern of August Brockman, No. 152 Fifth avenue, from whence she stole a feather pillow, belonging to the proprietor of the house, and two pillow cases, four yards of flannel, and four yards of muslin, the property of Mrs. M. Scheivley. The woman was discovered by Mrs. Scheively as she was in the act of leaving the premises, through the back yard, with the stolen goods secreted under her shawl. As soon as the guilty woman found she was discovered, she started to run, pursued by Mrs. Scheivley, who gave the alarm. She ran rapidly up Elm street to Franklin, thence to Logan, and down to Our alley, where she was arrested by Alderman H. J. Thomas, in *propria persona*. The novel chase attracted a large crowd of persons, who were anxious to know the occasion. In her flight, the woman had dropped the stolen pillow on Logan street, and the bundle she had pitched to a boy supposed to have been her own. The bundle was afterwards found. The woman gave the name of Ellen Wilson, but it was subsequently learned that her real name was Belmong, and that her husband is employed in the Twentieth ward. She was committed to jail to answer two charges of larceny preferred by Mr. Brockman and Mrs. Scheivley.

A SWEEPING CHALLENGE.

The St. Johns Crew in the Field.

The telegraph this morning brings us the following challenge, issued yesterday by the St. Johns (Paris) crew:

"We are prepared to row any four-oared crew in England or the United States six miles (three miles to a stake-boat and return) for $1,000 to $2,000 a side. If the Pittsburgh or either of the New York crews accept this challenge, we will allow them fair expenses to row at Halifax. We will allow the Winship and Chambers (English) crews the usual expenses. The conditions of the race are that the race shall take place at Halifax in June or July, neither boat to carry coxswains."

Whether any of our home crews will have anything to say on the subject or not remains to be seen.

At the First Baptist Church, Fourth avenue, near Rees street, a free Musical Sociable will be held this evening at seven and a half o'clock. Selections of vocal and instrumental music with readings will be given. Friends of the church are cordially invited to attend.

ROUGH SKIN made smooth by using Juniper Tar Soap, manufactured by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York.

Another Street Car Accident.

Yesterday morning, as car No. 4 of the Central Passenger Railway was coming down Fourth avenue, with the brakes on, the wheels began to slide on the track. The car came forward on the horses and caused them to keep up a lively pace in order to keep from being run over. When opposite the old Mayor's office the car turned into the switch, which had been left open, and the horses became entangled with another horse attached to a soap wagon. The last mentioned animal, by some peculiar tactics, made his way to the platform of the car and very coolly thrust his head through the large pane of glass therein, smashing it to atoms. It was some time before the three animals were rescued from the tangle they had gotten into. None of them were seriously injured.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE Ides of March.

MISS ADA GRAY'S benefit to-night.

THE income blanks are on their last tour.

THE price of nails has been advanced.

OUR liquor dealers say that the Louisville whisky ring is a failure.

CONTROLLER MCGOWAN'S office has not been completely fitted up yet.

THE receipts at the City Treasurer's office these days are very light.

MLLE MARIETTA RAVEL will have a benefit at the Pittsburgh Opera House to-night.

MARCH will contain five Sundays, five Fridays and five Saturdays.

THERE are nearly two million dollars worth of old whisky in this city.

HOLTZMAN, the man who was so badly cut a few days ago, it is said will recover.

YESTERDAY Mrs. Jennie O. Howard, sister of Kate V. Morgan, was appointed the latter's guardian by the court.

THE new organ in the Jewish Synagogue, Eighth street, was appropriately dedicated last evening.

"BERTHA, the Sewing Machine Girl," is the name of a new drama in rehearsal at the Fifth Avenue Opera House.

THE iron merchants were in session yesterday and increased the price of nails twenty-five cents per keg, and of iron two-tenths on all sizes from card rates.

NOW that Lent has commenced, the girls have time to turn their attention to their spiritual welfare and their spring toilets, and are improving the opportunity.

TO APPRECIATE the beauties of the present season, and the healthy action of the atmosphere upon your frame work, bounce out of bed at five o'clock in the morning.

THE annual report of Controller McGowan for the fiscal year ending February first is in the hands of the printer, and will be presented at the next meeting of Councils.

THE alarm of fire last night, about nine o'clock, was caused by the burning of the soot in the chimney of a frame house near Moorhead's Mill. The damage was trifling.

AN interesting time is expected at the Tempperanceville M. E. Church on next Sabbath. Rev. T. N. Boyle, of Allegheny City, will preach at half past ten o'clock in the morning, and Rev. L. M. Gardner, of Pittsburgh, at seven o'clock in the evening.

MRS. W. A. DEAN slipped and fell yesterday on the pavement on the corner of Market street and Fifth avenue, breaking a leg. She was taken to her home on Center avenue, Thirteenth ward, and proper medical aid called in.

ALLEGHENY.

ITEMS IN BRIEF.

GORMAN having failed to secure the necessary bail was committed yesterday.

THE Police Committee did not meet last evening, owing to the meeting for the organization of a Republican club, and the police will therefore not be paid off to-day. The Committee meet to-night.

GEORGE CALHOUN, who was arrested Wednesday evening for acting in a disorderly manner on car No. 4 of the Central Railway, had a hearing before the Mayor yesterday, and was fined twenty-five dollars and cost.

SHORTLY after twelve o'clock yesterday morning, one of the slanders in the brick kilns of Cochran & Farley, on Washington avenue, near Fremont street, was discovered on fire. An alarm was sounded from box No. 8, but by the time the firemen arrived the flames had communicated to two adjoining sheds. These were destroyed but the firemen prevented the further spread of the flames. The loss will reach $600.

POLITICAL.

*Organization of a Republ